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## THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : FRYBERG et al. Group Art ....

Examiner : M. Yamitzky

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Serial No.:

09/040,825

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Date: February 22, 2002

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington D.C. 20231

ATTENTION BOX PETITIONS EXAMINER BILL KRYNSKI

> PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.181 (a) (1) REQUESTING RESTART OF OFFICE ACTION

Dear Examiner Krynski:

Applicants submit this Petition under 37 CFR 1.181(a)(1) requesting restart of an office action in the above-identified application. The facts surrounding this request are as follows:

- A first office action was mailed on August 22, 2001 with a three-month response, without extensions, due prior to November 22, 2001 (cover sheet copy annexed as Exhibit 1).
- The application has been assigned to Ilford Imaging Switzerland GmbH which is a corporation located in Switzerland.
- Due to the events of September 11th and aftermath, a timely response to the action was unable to be filed prior to the November 22, 2001 deadline.
- My office is located in the Woolworth building which is two blocks away from what was the World Trade Center and

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was located within what was referred to as the "Red Zone." Although the building was structurally sound after the attacks there was no electricity or phone service. To date the phone service has not fully been restored.

- 5. In addition, due to the attacks and subsequent "anthrax" threats, the mail to my office was delayed and not being delivered on a timely basis.
- 6. I was not able to gain access to my office until mid-October and during this period had no access to my files or database.
- 7. Telephone service and having access to the internet are essential to my practice. Since September 11<sup>th</sup> we have had a difficult time practicing "business as usual". In fact we had been operating from temporary offices but have recently as last Friday (2/15/02) have permanently relocated our offices.
- 8. Our new mailing address is 1133 Broadway Suite 1600, New York, New York, 10010. Our present phone numbers and fax are 212-791-2950 and 845-398-3790, respectively.
- 9. In addition, these circumstances resulted in the delay in receiving instructions from the Assignee, who is located outside of the country, which in turn hindered the timely response to the present action.
- 10. Due to these extra-ordinary circumstances, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner restart the office action in the above-identified application.
- 11. It is believed that no fee is due for this Petition Under 37 C.F.R 1.181(a)(1).

In view of the urgency of this matter Applicants request Examiner to act on this petition immediately and kindly notify them by telephone. If you have any questions concerning the above



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please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorneys for Applicant's

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## CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to the United States Patent Office on the date shown below addressed to the:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231. Attention Box Petitions Examiner Bill Krynski

Dated: February 22, 2002

<u>Dara L. Onofrio</u> Person mailing par

Signature of person mailin

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